

Minutes of the
Michigan State Waterways Commission
D. Hale Brake Conference Room
December 5, 2014

The regular meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission (MSWC) was called to order by Commissioner and Chair, Gary Marowske at 8:00 a.m., on Friday, December 5, 2014, at Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

The following Commissioners were present:

Commissioner Nicki Polan
Commissioner/Vice Chair Alex Declercq
Commissioner/Chair Gary Marowske
Commissioner Ward Walstrom
Commissioner Dennis Nickels
Commissioner Dennis Grinold
Commissioner James Hansen
Special Consultant R.J. Petersen

The following staff from the Department of Natural Resources was present:

Chief Ronald A. Olson
Jason Fleming
Bill Boik
Paul Petersen
Jordan Byelich
Jackie Blodgett
Vicki Anthes
Darlene Moore
Director Keith Creagh
Scott Pratt
Dennis Knapp
John Allan

Chair Gary Marowske opened the Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting at 8:00 a.m., December 5, 2014.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. PUBLIC APPEARANCE

A. Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence.

B. Appearances (Non-agenda items)

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the August 15, 2014 Minutes.

MOTION: Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2014 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Jim Hansen and was seconded by Commissioner Ward Walstrom. It carried unanimously, 7-0.

- B. Resolution – Approval of changes to the By-Laws. A motion to approve the changes was given by Commissioner Ward Walstrom and was seconded by Commissioner Alex Declercq. It carried unanimously, 7-0.

- C. Election of officers for 2015. Nominations were opened for Chair of the Waterways Committee for 2015 with Gary Marowske getting the single and only nomination. Dennis Nickels put the motion forward for approval and a vote for Gary Marowske as Chair of the Waterways Committee for 2015 and Ward Walstrom seconded it. It carried unanimously, 7-0.

Next was the opening of nominations for Vice Chair of the Waterways Committee for 2015. Alex Declercq received the single and only nomination for that role. Putting the motion for approval and vote of election of Alex Declercq for Vice Chair of the Waterways Committee was Commissioner Jim Hansen and it was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Grinold. It carried unanimously, 7-0.

- D. Confirmation of Chairs and Members of the Waterways Subcommittee's was discussed. A prior listing of the subcommittee's and their chairs was sent to Commissioner's prior to this meeting. They were reviewed by the Commissioner's and at this point, confirmation of the listing included in the packet as being accurate for 2015 by all members of the Waterways Committee was accepted.
- E. Confirmation of 2015 Waterways Committee meeting dates and locations was discussed. Prior to this meeting, there were two versions of suggested meeting locates and dates. One was received from DNR staff and the other was received by Chair Gary Marowske. It was concluded that the

approximate dates from Chair Gary Marowske's list would be used and the meeting locations would come from the DNR suggested list. Commissioners agreed that our locations should be areas where there is need for assistance from the DNR. They felt it would be helpful to see the projects asking for funding before they are done to help determine what projects should get priority and also the cost to complete their projects. In the past, the Committee has visited sites that have projects completed and Commissioner's believe that assessing projects before completion would be more beneficial. A "draft" schedule would be put together by Administrative Assistant, Darlene Moore and forwarded to the Commissioner's by email for a final approval and posting to the DNR/Waterway website prior to Christmas.

Public Comment:

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **General Update- Bill Boik and Dennis Grinold** discussed "Harbor Sustainability Integrated Assessment." There were handouts included in the agenda packet that both Dennis and Bill highlighted. The importance of harbor sustainability and the community integration of the master plan including both were conveyed in their presentation.
- B. **Eagle Lake Update – Jordan Byelich**
The lawsuit that has been pending in Cass County Circuit Court that was finalized in early November. It was the issue between the Lake Association and the Township regarding their Zoning Board of Authorities decision to allow in that in effect the access site we are developing does meet the definition of a "park." Through the court process, the Association appealed that decision and a judge did determine that it does meet the definition of a "park" and supported the Zoning Board of Authorities decision. The DNR has met with the County Road Commission and it was a very positive meeting. We are continuing to move ahead with our plans.
Emergency Dredge Update – Paul Petersen told the Commissioners that we now have completed the physical dredging of 51 locations.
Park Stays – Jason Fleming said there were 22,000 reservations at 2.7 nights being the average stay. This was a review done with CAMIS at the year's end. Jason will be forwarding a slide presentation by email to Commissioners on the highlights of the review. 84% of reservations are being done online. Non-Resident pay increase was a topic of discussion next. There was an in-depth conversation about increasing non-resident fees. Many suggestions were offered and Ron Olson said that it is definitely a topic that we need to revisit and give more thought and discussion to. Commissioners felt that there should be benefit to the people of the State of Michigan boaters by offering them a lower rate. An "early bird" offer

to boaters was brought up by Ward Walstrom. The question with the early bird offer is that, “Does it really encourage boaters to register early or are we giving very motivated customers that would have booked anyway a discount and losing revenue by doing so?”

Public Comment:

Chair Gary Marowske opened the floor back up for public comment due to two attendance record cards presented to him during the meeting from individuals wishing to speak to the Committee.

Public comment was given *by Jefferson Henry from Ludington, MI and Michael Hilfinger, V.P of Strategic Communications Solutions.*

Meeting adjourned.

The next Waterway Commission Meeting: April 30/May 1, 2015 in Detroit, Michigan with the meeting location to be announced later.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for this event should contact Darlene Moore at 517-284-6138 a minimum of five (5) business days before this meeting. Requests **MADE LESS THAN FIVE BUSINESS DAYS BEFORE THIS EVENT** may not be accommodated. Look for this agenda and other Waterways Commission items on the DNR web page at: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are open to the public.

[v= verbal update; w= written materials]

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